Utilisation of funds released to NGOs

4511. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only 20 per cent utilisation of funds released to NGOs by her Ministry;

(b) whether any study has been made to find out the reasons for this low utilisation of funds;

(c) what steps Government are proposing to ensure full utilisation of funds and achieving the target; and

(d) whether any monitoring mechanism is being introduced to have mid-term appraisal in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no target regarding NGOs to be assisted by the Ministry. However, the Ministry pursues matters with NGOs for submitting complete cases and with the State Governments and designated agencies to forward their inspection reports/recommendations to the Ministry well in time so that cases for release of grant-in-aid are processed timely and funds assigned for assistance to the voluntary sector fully utilized.

(d) Monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NGOs receiving grant-in-aid is carried out through inspections by the representatives of the State Governments, nodal agencies and the Ministry's own officials. In order to further improve this process, formats for reporting of work done by the NGOs themselves and the proforma for inspections are being revised to get improved quality of data, which shall enable assessment of the effectiveness of the work done by the NGO and reduce the chances of defalcation of funds. Other measures being adopted are inter alia, improving publicity of releases made so that the work of the NGOs comes under public scrutiny, increase in frequency of inspections.